AVENGERS®
ASSEMBLE

"Avengers Assemble *is Marvel's best character piece currently running.*"
— ComicBookResources.com

THE FORGERIES OF JEALOUSY

DECONNICK
ELLIS

MARVEL NOW!

BUFFAGNI

"Avengers Assemble *delivers a little bit of what you'd expect and a little bit of a surprise.*" — ComicVine.com

ONE GIRL — AGAINST AN INHUMAN WORLD!

In an effort to protect his people from Thanos, Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans,detonated a Terrigen bomb. Now descendants of the Inhumans worldwide are emerging from cocoons with new powers and new fears. In the midst of the confusion, mad scientist June Covington, aka Toxic Doxie, manages to snag one of the green nests — and her very own Inhuman! the noxious lady isn't alone: A.I.M., under the leadership of the trans-dimensional arms dealer Kashmir Vennema, also wants control of the Inhumans. When young hero Spider-Girl begins tracking Covington, she'll need help from the Avengers to understand what's at stake, how to fight it — and if she's very lucky, how to recover a dear friend without ending up dead. Because there's a second Terrigen cocoon in New York, ticking like a time bomb, and it's about to go off. Acclaimed writer Warren Ellis reunites with Kelly Sue DeConnick for a delightfully demented dance through the Avengers roster!

Collecting *Avengers Assemble #21-25* — written by Kelly Sue DeConnick and Warren Ellis, and illustrated by Matteo Buffagni.

T+

MARVEL

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

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INHUMANITY

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

DECONNICK
BUFFAGNI
WOODARD

021

MARVEL

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

SPIDER-GIRL
ANYA CORAZON
SPIDER-POWERED SUPER STUDENT

← Is not, NOT an Avenger -The Superior Spider-Man

SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW
SPIDER-POWERED SECRET AGENT

BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
PLAIN OL' COVERT SPECIALIST

KELLY SUE **DeCONNICK**
WRITER

MATTEO **BUFFAGNI**
ARTIST

NOLAN **WOODARD**
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VC's CLAYTON **COWLES**
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DAN **BUCKLEY**
PUBLISHER

ALAN **FINE**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FILE: INFINITY_04

While most of the Avengers were off Earth fighting an alien threat, the Mad Titan Thanos led an invasion force to attack their home planet. Scouring the Earth to locate his own Inhuman son, Thane, Thanos sought to destroy Thane and raze the planet. Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans, in an effort to protect his people, detonated a Terrigen bomb, causing latent Inhumans hidden and scattered around Earth to undergo the Terrigen mists' mutating effects. Some were affected immediately; others were trapped in cocoons, the extent of their newly activated abilities yet to be seen...

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SOMEWHERE OVER THE EASTERN SEABOARD.

TIC TIC

MOTHER SAID, "IF THE LORD MEANT US TO FLY, HE'D HAVE GIVEN US WINGS."

GOOD THING FOR MOTHER SHE WAS PRETTY.

IF SHE'D BEEN A TRIFLE *LESS* COMELY, THE WORLD MAY HAVE BEEN DISINCLINED TO LET HER COMFORT HER SMALL MIND WITH THE NOTION THAT THERE WAS A PLAN...

TIC TIC

THAT SOME HIGHER BEING HAD A *PURPOSE* BEHIND ALL THE INEQUITY IN THE UNIVERSE.

WHICH, OF COURSE, IS A *LIE*. THERE IS NO ORDER, THERE IS NO JUSTICE, THERE IS NO *PLAN*.

WHAT DOES CHAOS OFFER IN THE ABSENCE OF FATE?

TIC TIC

FREE WILL.

TIC TIC

THAT WHICH *GOD* DOES NOT OFFER, CAN BE HAD...

TIC TIC TIC

...FOR A *PRICE*.

THE PRIVATE LABORATORY OF JUNE COVINGTON,
GENETICIST. A.K.A THE TOXIC DOXIE

I FUNDED THIS *ENTIRE OPERATION* ON THE SPOILS OF ENHANCEMENT SERUMS AND GENETIC PLUG-INS PEDDLED TO OTHERS ILL-CONTENT TO ACCEPT BIOLOGY AS NATURE MADE IT.

FROM THE WEALTHY DUTCH ECCENTRIC WHO WANTED HIS SWEAT TO SMELL LIKE PARSNIPS...

TO THE WARLORD WHO WOULD RAISE AN ARMY OF LIZARD-MEN.

GONGXIAN? THAT WAS *YOURS?*

OH, YOU KNOW GONGXIAN, GAIL? YES, THAT WAS MINE. DIDN'T WORK OUT WELL FOR POOR YUN.

PARSNIP GUY, THOUGH? VERY HAPPY. SENT A FRUIT BASKET JUST LAST WEEK.

AND STILL, I SPENT EVERY PENNY I HAD AND THEN SOME ON THIS...

WHERE DO YOU WANT IT?

IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE, PLEASE.

TIC TIC

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO THINK OF CHRISTMAS.

TIC TIC TIC

SO... YOU KEEP A CROWBAR IN YOUR DESK?

TIC TIC

I'D KEEP ONE IN MY POCKET IF I COULD. I LOVE A LEVER.

IT'S... EXTRAORDINARY. IT'S EVERYTHING I'D HOPED.

TIC TIC TIC

IT'S...

IS THAT WHAT I THINK IT IS?

IF YOU THINK IT'S AN INHUMAN *TERRIGENESIS COCOON*, THEN WHY YES, IT IS.

TIC TIC

IT IS EVERYTHING I LOVE, AND EVERYTHING I HATE. IT IS EVOLUTION, AND CHANCE. SCIENCE, AND FATE.

IS IT... TICKING?

TIC TIC

BOOM!

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE? WHAT HAVE THEY *DONE?* WE HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

GAIL! *GAIL!*

WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE, MY INHUMAN DARLING. WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT, AND I'M GOING TO *FIX* YOU. I'M GOING TO FIX US *BOTH.*

AND WHEN WE'RE WELL, WHEN WE'RE STRONG, WE'RE GOING TO FIND WHOMEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS...

AND IF THERE *IS* A GOD, HE WILL *MARVEL* AT OUR *CRUELTY.*

AVENGERS TOWER.
MANHATTAN.

STARK

OW!

OOOOOOWWWWWWW!

HE STEPPED ON MY *TOE!* IRON MAN STEPPED ON MY TOE IN *ROCKET BOOTS.*

SORRY, I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE, SPIDER...KID? HOW DID YOU EVEN GET IN HERE?

JARVIS LET ME IN. AND HOW COULD YOU NOT *SEE* ME?! I'M STANDING *RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU* DRESSED LIKE A *GIANT SPIDER.*

YEAH, WELL, THAT DOES NOT MAKE YOU PARTICULARLY *UNIQUE* IN THIS--

SPIDER-GIRL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

GETTING MY TOES BROKEN.

CAROL, I NEED YOUR HELP. *AVENGERS* HELP. IT'S MY SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER. HE--

ANYA.

NOW IS NOT A GOOD TIME...

TERRIGEN MIST COCOON ACTIVITY
>24 hrs
<24 hrs
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN *INHUMAN PANDEMIC.*
AIN'T GOT TIME TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR *HOMEWORK,* KID.
LOGAN, I'VE GOT THIS. WHEN ATTILAN FELL, IT...
MOET
...IT TRIGGERED SOMETHING. SOMETHING GENETIC. HUMAN BEINGS ARE COCOONING-- LITERALLY, LIKE CATERPILLARS-- AND HATCHING OUT WITH *POWERS.*
WE'RE TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE FALLOUT AT THE SAME TIME WE DEVELOP A MODEL TO PREDICT--
DO YOU THINK I LIVE UNDER A *ROCK?* OR, LIKE, DON'T HAVE GNN ALERTS ON MY PHONE OR SOMETHING?
NO. BUT I FIGURED THERE MUST BE SOME LOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR WHY YOU'D IMAGINE WE'D BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR *SCHOOLWORK* RIGHT NOW.
ARE *ALL* ADULTS IDIOTS, OR JUST *MY* ADULTS?
SERIOUS QUESTION.

MY SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER IS MISSING. HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR--

YES. OF COURSE!

HAVE YOU CALLED THE *POLICE*?

ONE OF THE HARDEST PARTS OF WHAT WE DO IS COMING TO TERMS WITH THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T HELP EVERYONE ALL THE TIME.

IT'S ESPECIALLY HARD TO HEAR AT YOUR AGE, I KNOW. YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU RILE EASILY. BUT--

RIGHT NOW, IN LIGHT OF THE *SCALE* OF WHAT'S HAPPENING, I THINK IT'S BEST THAT WE LET THE *POLICE* LOOK FOR YOUR TEACHER.

CAROL?

ONE SECOND.

YOU OKAY? YOU WANNA SIT FOR A MINUTE, MAYBE? CALM DOWN.

OH, SURE.

CAROL, WHEN YOU'VE GOT A MOMENT?

YEAH, GIVE ME A MINUTE, BANNER.

OF COURSE, IF YOU'D LET ME FINISH A SENTENCE YOU'D KNOW THAT MY SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER COCOONED.

AND IF YOU COULD LISTEN *THAT* LONG, MAYBE YOU'D KNOW THAT--

TWO OF YOUR PRECIOUS COCOONS HAVE BEEN STOLEN!

MY TEACHER WAS COCOONED. HE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION. TWO DAYS AGO, HE AND AND THE GUY IN THE BED NEXT TO HIM *DISAPPEARED.*

I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY AND THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS IMPORTANT. BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT *TOO.* I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND THEM.

CAROL?

I CAN'T, I--

BRUCE AND I ARE WORKING OUT A--

I'LL GO.

GREAT, JESS. NATASHA?

ALREADY ON IT, STEVE.

S'OKAY. YOU'RE OLD. YOU RILE EASILY.

OKAY, YOU TWO GO WITH SPIDER-GIRL. EVERYBODY ELSE, BACK TO WORK.

HEY--

I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY I DIDN'T LET YOU FINISH.

NICE BURN, KID. PUNCH IT IN.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

YOU'RE A SPIDER, I'M A SPIDER, SHE'S A SPIDER--YOU ARE NAMED FOR THE SPIDER, RIGHT? AND NOT, LIKE, A REALLY SAD LADY WHO LOST HER--

I AM NAMED FOR THE SPIDER, YES.

COOL. SO WE'RE, LIKE, TEAM SPIDER LADY. TEAM LADY SPIDERS? MAYBE IN YOUR CASE TEAM LADY SPY-DER--

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

DOWN.

AFTER THAT?

WELL, I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE YOU GUYS TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE MR. SCHLICKEISEN WAS LA--

A.I.M.

I'M SORRY, WHAT?

DING

ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS. WE'RE TAKING THIS TO A.I.M.

?!

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
MEAT-PACKING DISTRICT, NYC.

YOU KNOW WHERE A.I.M. IS? THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION? THE AVENGERS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND JUST *LET* THEM EXIST?

YOU DIDN'T GET THE MEMO. A.I.M. IS LEGIT NOW. OFFICIALLY, WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO APPROACH THEM AT ALL.

BUT UNOFFICIALLY... URGH... WE SOMETIMES GET *TIPS* ABOUT COVERT, MOBILE OPERATIONS AND WE DON'T ACT IMMEDIATELY...

BECAUSE WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE LARGER ORGANIZATION IS UP TO MORE THAN WE WANT TO SHUT DOWN THE--*RRRGH*-- TEMP LAB.

A.I.M. IS CRAZY HIGH-TECH. YOU CAN'T JUST MOVE EQUIPMENT LIKE THAT AROUND EVERY TWO WEEKS.

THAT WOULD COST, LIKE--

DID YOU THINK THEY WERE A NONPROFIT? A.I.M. SPENDS *MILLIONS* AND MAKES *BILLIONS.*

IF WE WERE *SMART,* WE'D TRY TO CUT OFF THEIR REVENUE STREAMS INSTEAD OF *PUNCHING* THEM OUT OF EXISTENCE.

BUT... WE'RE NOT. SO...

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

THEY'RE ON PARTIAL POWER AND LIMITED SENSORS NOW. SECONDARY OVERLOAD WILL FIRE IN 30 SECONDS OR SO.

WE'LL HAVE TEN SECONDS OF DARKNESS BEFORE THEIR BACKUP GENERATORS RESTORE EVERYTHING.

TEN SECONDS TO INCAPACITATE AS MANY AS WE CAN AND SECURE THE REST SO ONCE THE LIGHTS ARE UP WE CAN GET THEM TO TALK.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO MAKE THEM TALK?

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH.

IS SHE ALWAYS THIS TERRIFYING?

AYYYYYYYYEP.

GO!

TEN...!

NINE!

EIGHT!

SEVEN!

SIX!

FIVE!

FOUR!

THREE!

TWO!

HI. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

F-F-F-FRED.

CONGRATULATIONS, FRED. YOU GET TO TELL US WHAT A.I.M. KNOWS ABOUT THE TWO TERRIGEN COCOONS KIDNAPPED FROM MERCY GENERAL.

I COULD DOSE YOU AND *MAKE* YOU GIVE UP THE GOODS, FRED, BUT FRANKLY, SHE LIKES TO DO IT THE HARD WAY.

...ONE.

MMRF.

TH-THE OPERATION WAS A BUST! ONE COCOON WAS DEAD! ONE WAS DEAD AND THE OTHER--

TZZKK

AHHH!

WELCOME TO MY PARLOR, LADIES...

HOW LOVELY OF YOU TO DROP IN.

TRESPASSING. I COULD HAVE YOU ARRESTED. WOULDN'T THAT BE RICH?

WHERE ARE THE COCOONS?

NO, HUH-UH. YOU'RE THE INTERROGATEE, NOT THE INTERROGATOR. WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DO THAT?

ALWAYS? HAVE WE MET?

OH, RIGHT! I'M SORRY.

THAT THING WAS GETTING HOT ANYWAY. TA-DA!

KASHMIR VENNEMA.

OH, NO WAY, NUH-UH. THAT IS *NOT* HER REAL NAME.

IT'S A DAMN SIGHT MORE EVOCATIVE THAN "SPIDER-GIRL," MISS JUDGYPANTS. WAS *"ARACHNO-BROAD"* TAKEN?

SORT OF.

WHAT'S A CASHMERE ENEMA?

VENNEMA. INTER-DIMENSIONAL ARMS DEALER.

SHE'S PARTNERED WITH ALTERNATE UNIVERSE VERSIONS OF HERSELF TO PREY ON THE MOST BASE PROFITEERING IMPULSES OF HER FELLOW MAN ALL ACROSS TIME AND SPACE.

RIGHT HERE, WIDOW. IT'S LIKE YOU LOOK INSIDE AND SEE THE REAL ME.

WHERE ARE THE STOLEN COCOONS?

ONE'S DEAD, ITSY BITSY. PROCESS WAS TOO HARD ON HIM. YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO STARK MONEY. WHAT WILL YOU GIVE ME FOR THE LIVING ONE?

WHICH ONE'S DEAD?

STOP TALKING.

MR. SCHLICKEISEN? IS HE...?

OOOH, TOUGH LUCK, KID. I'M SORRY. I'D OFFER YOU THE BODY, BUT WE ALREADY SOLD IT.

NO!

YOU KNOW WHAT? CHANGED MY MIND. JUST KILL THEM.

MURDER THREE AVENGERS IN COLD BLOOD AND YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN A WORLD OF HURT, LADY!

YEAH, SEE? I DON'T THINK SO.

FIRST, YOU KNOW DAMN WELL A.I.M. HAS DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND YOU ARE ***EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN*** FROM HARASSING US.

AND SECOND, CASTLE LAW. THE MINUTE YOU BUSTED IN HERE, I WAS ENTITLED TO CONFRONT YOU WITH LETHAL FORCE.

IN FACT, WHEN THESE BAD BOYS ARE DONE, I MAY WELL CALL THE POLICE TO COLLECT YOUR REMAINS.

OR NOT. I DON'T KNOW. IT'S A THREE-DAY WEEKEND AND I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO SPEND IT DOING PAPERWORK...

REGARDLESS-- THE FIRST PART'S DECIDED: KILL THEM!

HEMOGLOBAL RESEARCH AND LAB SERVICES.

THREE-DAY WEEKEND. YOU GOT PLANS?

YES. THEY INVOLVE BEER AND PIZZA AND STEALING DIRTY PICTURES OFF THE INTERNET.

I'M GOING TO PRETEND YOU SAID THAT JUST TO RILE ME.

IT'S THE GOD'S HONEST TRUTH.

I KNOW.

BUT YOU'VE RECORDED DATA ON THAT TEST EVERY TWO HOURS OF THE LAST FORTY-EIGHT AND YOU'RE BEAT. SO I'M GOING TO CUT YOU SOME SLACK.

HOW MUCH LONGER?

TWENTY MINUTES. FINAL READING, THEN I AM OUT OF HERE FOR THREE GLORIOUS MOZZARELLA AND PIRATE BOOTY-FILLED DAYS.

YOU WANT ME TO HANG OUT? YOU OKAY TO DRIVE?

NAH, I'M FINE. GET HOME TO YOUR KIDS. I'LL SEE YOU ON TUESDAY.

YEAH, BOB CUT ME LOOSE EARLY, HE'LL LOCK UP. SHOULD I MEET YOU AT THE ARCADE...?

BRBAFVR

FORGET SOMETHING? OR DID YOU *MISS ME*, THERESE?

THERESE WENT HOME TO THE HUBBY, BOB. MY NAME IS *DR. JUNE COVINGTON.* I'LL BE BORROWING YOUR FACILITIES FOR THE WEEKEND. AND, DEAR MAN...

GU-URK--

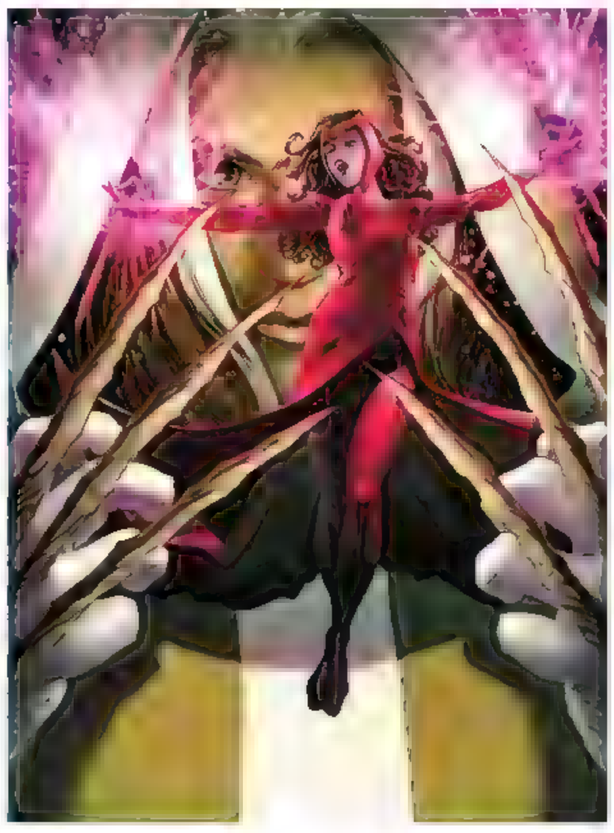
I NEVER MISS.

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

Coulson Lives! And you can find him on ABC Tuesday nights at 8:00 as the linchpin of **MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.**! Unless you've been living on a desert island these past few weeks, you've already heard about how the premiere broke records in terms of its audience! And that's only the tip of the iceberg—you'll be amazed by the surprises the series has in store for future episodes (which is why smarter true believers tune in live)! If you're getting the impression that we're kinda excited by all this, give yourself a gold star—it's one more step toward Marvel's domination of the entire globe! Don't Yield, Back S.H.I.E.L.D.!

Just when you thought things couldn't get worse for the **UNCANNY AVENGERS**, it's time to begin "RAGNAROK NOW!," the second movement of our big Apocalypse Twins saga! And joining writer Rick Remender in torturing both mutant and non-mutant Avenger alike is artist Steve McNiven (whom you may remember from such almost-forgotten stories as "Old Man Logan," "Brand New Day" and CIVIL WAR)! Starting things off with a bang in this month's issue #14, you won't believe the shocking twists and turns—not to mention which characters don't make it to the end of the issue in one piece! We've maxed out the crazy factor here, so don't be caught off-guard! Absolutely no one will be seated without $3.99!



Well, the votes have been tallied, and we're ready to share the results of our recent Favorite Avengers poll. Ever since we posted the mid-term rankings a while back, there's been a swell of activity— specifically, the members of the "Carol Corps" of CAPTAIN MARVEL fans got the vote out to support their faves!

So here's the tale of the tape:

FAVORITE AVENGERS SERIES –
In a surprise upset, AVENGERS ASSEMBLE took it by a wide margin. NEW AVENGERS was the runner-up!

FAVORITE AVENGERS WRITER –
– Kelly Sue DeConnick, with Jonathan Hickman as the number two.

FAVORITE AVENGERS PENCILER –
Stefano Caselli, with the second spot split between John Cassaday, Steve Epting, Dustin Weaver and Jamie McKelvie

FAVORITE AVENGERS INKER –
Rick Magyar

FAVORITE AVENGERS COLORIST –
Jordie Bellaire

FAVORITE AVENGERS LETTERER –
A three-way draw between Cory Petit, Joe Caramagna and Clayton Cowles, all of Virtual Calligraphy

We're not sure what this tells us (other than not to mess with those CAPTAIN MARVEL fans), but congratulations to all of the winners!

And what would this page be without a Letter of the Month?

Hello there, my name is Chris Countryman. I'm a 31yr old medically retired Army Veteran. Growing up, if I wasn't outside playing basketball or football I was inside reading my Marvel comics all the time. While other kids joined gangs over street names and colors I was all about my Marvel heroes! When we were attacked on 09\11, I joined the Army to go and fight for this country I love. It was very hard to get comics during my 1st tour, but on my 2nd tour in Iraq I was better prepared. Well, 8 months in I was hit by a roadside bomb that smashed our armored pretty bad. Thankfully my crew came away with just bumps and bruises but I unfortunately received a traumatic brain injury. I'm not telling my story for sympathy because I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat. My point is that there's a chance I'm recovering a lot better and keeping my brain cells a lot more active because I'm constantly using and stimulating those brain cells. So on behalf of my family I'd like to say thank you all for all the great work.

Chris Countryman

And thank you for your service, Chris!

NEXT ISSUE:

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #23
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE BATTLE FOR EARTH MOVES PLANETSIDE!

AVENGERS A.I. #6
THE MAN BEHIND THE IRON (MAN) MASK REVEALED!

AVENGERS ARENA #17
BOSS LEVEL! IT'S AN ALL-OUT BATTLE ROYALE (TO COIN A PHRASE)!

AVENGERS ARENA #18
SERIES FINALE! WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #21
AS INFINITY LEADS TO INHUMANITY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH SPIDER-GIRL?

INFINITY #6
THE MEGA-SIZED CONCLUSION AS THE AVENGERS BATTLE THANOS FOR THE EARTH!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #3
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE RETURN OF ADAM, THE BLUE MARVEL!

NEW AVENGERS #12
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR IS FELT!

SECRET AVENGERS #11
INFINITY TIE-IN! ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE FOR EARTH!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #14
RAGNAROK NOW! STEVE MCNIVEN! WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED?

YOUNG AVENGERS #12
THE YOUNG AVENGERS VS. THE YOUNG AVENGERS!

A + X #14
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS CONTINUE THEIR QUEST, AND THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN BONDS WITH MAGNETO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #2

INHUMANITY

AVENGERS

ASSEMBLE

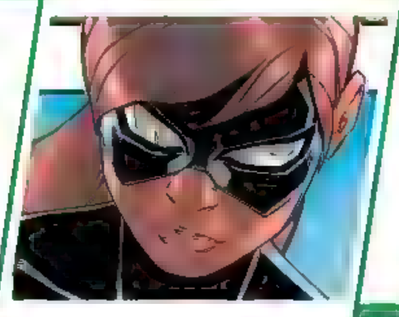
MARVEL

DECONNICK
ELLIS
BUFFAGNI
DIAZ
WOODARD

022

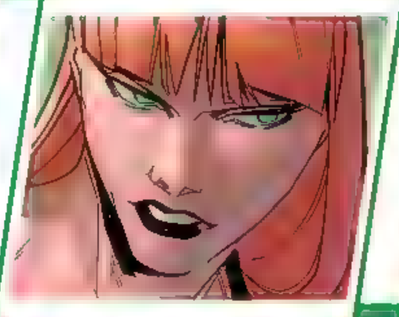
AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE



SPIDER-GIRL
ANYA CORAZON

SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW



BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF

HULK
DR. BRUCE BANNER

CAPTAIN AMERICA
STEVE ROGERS

WOLVERINE
JAMES "LOGAN" HOWLETT

KELLY SUE **DeCONNICK** & WARREN **ELLIS**
WRITERS

MATTEO **BUFFAGNI** & PACO **DIAZ**
ARTISTS

NOLAN **WOODARD**
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON **COWLES**
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ALAN **FINE**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FILE: ASSEMBLE 21

While the Avengers were off-planet fighting an alien threat, the Mad Titan Thanos led an invasion force to attack the Earth. Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans, in an effort to protect his people, detonated a Terrigen bomb, causing latent Inhumans hidden and scattered around Earth to cocoon and undergo the Terrigen Mists' mutating effects.

Two of these new Inhuman cocoons were stolen from their hospital room, one of which contained the teacher of Anya Corazon A.K.A. Spider-Girl. Anya went to the Avengers for help tracking down the stolen cocoons. She, Spider-Woman and Black Widow broke into a local A.I.M. facility to gather information. Things quickly went south however, and they were taken hostage by inter-dimensional arms dealer Kashmir Vennema.

Meanwhile, Anya's teacher's cocoon was delivered to Dr. June Covington, A.K.A. The Toxic Doxie A.K.A. Evil Geneticist Lady, when it was promptly detonated, apparently in an attempt to murder June. Gathering the comatose teacher for further study, an injured June is now out for revenge on her would-be killers.

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HEMOGLOBAL LABORATORIES.

YOU KNOW, YOU ARE ALMOST PRETTY, IN A PROLETARIAN KIND OF WAY. A GENE TUCK HERE OR THERE AFTER THE TERRIGENESIS IS DONE...

I MIGHT NOT RECOIL IN HORROR AT THE THOUGHT OF BEING SEEN IN YOUR COMPANY.

PATIENT: ANON
OPERATOR: R. CHILDERS
NO READING

ALL RIGHT. OKAY.

THINK, DR. COVINGTON... THINK.

HUH.

BOOOOM

IF YOU THINK IT'S AN *INHUMAN TERRIGENESIS COCOON*, THEN WHY *YES*, IT IS.

TIC TIC

TIC TIC

TIC TIC

WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM...

"SOMEONE FILLED YOU WITH LIQUID EXPLOSIVES.

"WHO WOULD WASTE AN INVALUABLE TERRIGEN COCOON JUST TO KILL ME? WITH A LIVE INHUMAN INSIDE?"

SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT THE COCOON WAS *EMPTY!*

SOMEONE WHO SCANNED IT WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD AND COULD NOT SEE ANYTHING INSIDE.

BECAUSE THE MAN INSIDE IS *MACHINE-INVISIBLE.*

WHAT A *MAGNIFICENT ENHANCEMENT* FOR THE 21ST CENTURY!

IN A WORLD OF PERVASIVE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE, A MAN WHO CANNOT BE SEEN BY THE STATE.

THE *THEORIES* THIS OPENS UP! DOES TERRIGEN RESPOND TO THE ENVIRONMENT? IS THERE A CHEMICAL INTELLIGENCE INSIDE TERRIGEN?

OH, MY LOVELY...

THERE ARE THINGS OF YOURS I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE INSIDE OF ME.

MOBILE A.I.M. FACILITY
LOCATION: UNDISCLOSED

SHOOT THEM!

ARE WE DONE?

WELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY MORE OUT OF THEM, THANKS TO SPIDER-BABY HERE.

I'M SORRY, WHAT?

I MADE A SMART MOVE. I ASKED FOR *HELP.* EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS WAS *DUMB*--AND THAT'S ON *YOU.*

DID YOU...DID *SPIDER-GIRL* JUST INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE?

LADY, YOU ARE *MADE* OF DUMB.

YOU GOT US *TIED TO CHAIRS!* YOUR REP IS ALL *OOOH, SPOOKY JAMES BOND,* AND YOU GOT US *TIED* TO *CHAIRS!* LIKE--LIKE *ZELDA!*

FITZGERALD?

HA HA HA

DID YOU JUST CALL THE BLACK WIDOW A *PRINCESS?*

I DO LIKE YOU.

UH...

SERIOUSLY, AM I RIGHT?

SORRY, WE'RE...WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SHOOT YOU.

LATER FOR THAT--FIRST, AM I RIGHT? ARE THEY STUPID?

HEY, WAIT-- "THEY"?

WELLLL, I MEAN...

SEEMS HARSH.

I-I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET IN THE MIDDLE OF A GIRL THING--

IS IT ME, OR IS THE DARK-HAIRED ONE KIND OF HOT?

I... I MISS MY LADY.

CAN'T *IMAGINE* WHY SHE DUMPED YOU, BIG BOY.

THUNK

I HATE YOU BOTH *SO MUCH!* WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

SPIDER-WOMAN PROJECTS POWERFUL PHEROMONES THAT ARE VERY CONFUSING TO MEN AND EXTRAORDINARILY ANNOYING TO WOMEN.

I DO DO THAT. THAT IS A THING THAT I DO.

SO I DON'T *REALLY* HATE YOU? I JUST HATE BREATHING YOUR SWEAT...?

PRETTY MUCH SUMS IT UP.

IT WASN'T BAD AS A PLAN B. PITY IT WAS KASHMIR AND NOT A MAN...

WE'VE GOT ALL WE'RE GOING TO GET HERE.

DO YOU GUYS THINK MR. SCHLICKEISEN IS REALLY DEAD?

IF HE WAS ALIVE, SHE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO SELL HIM TO US.

I'M SORRY.

THEN HIS FAMILY DESERVES A BURIAL. HOW DO WE...

HOW DO WE FIND HIS BODY?

"WE HAVE TO TRACK KASHMIR VENNEMA."

STOP

SNKT

SKRR!!!

HELLO.

LARRY! DON'T SHOOT.

HI, LARRY. I'M DR. BRUCE BANNER.

MS. VENNEMA, I DO APPRECIATE YOUR TELLING LARRY HERE NOT TO FIRE. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TACTICAL ERROR.

I KNOW.

GREAT! LET'S CHAT. I'M HAVING A BIT OF A DAY, HOW ABOUT YOU?

WHAT WITH THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND ALL...

THEN COME TO FIND OUT A FRIEND OF A FRIEND *DIED* IN YOUR CUSTODY, AND--CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG HERE-- YOU *SOLD* THE BODY...?

DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT, DOES IT? MAKES ME...

IRRITABLE.

NOW. GIVE ME THE NAME OF THE PERSON YOU SOLD THE BODY TO AND I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR CAR *BEFORE* I LOSE MY TEMPER.

DR. JUNE COVINGTON.

EXCELLENT. SEE HOW EASY THAT WAS?

I HOPE ONE DAY WE CAN LAUGH ABOUT THIS. LET'S SHAK--

BLAM BLAM BLAM

LEAVE HER ALONE--

IDIOT!

AHHHHHRRRRRR

RRRRRRRRRRR

LARRY DUMB LIKE MUD!

OH, GOD... OH...

HULK LAUGH ABOUT THIS NOW--

HA. HA.

HULK SMAA--

YO, HULK!

MRRF?

I'M PECKISH, BIG GUY. WHAT SAY WE GO GRAB A BITE?

LADY LUCKY.

HULK WANT SANDWICH NOW.

AVENGERS TOWER.

THE NAME WAS DR. JUNE COVINGTON.

GENIUS NUTTER TYPE--HEAVY ON THE NUTTER.

HEAVY ON THE GENIUS TOO.

SHE'S A GENUINE SOCIOPATH--REGARDS HER FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS AS ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO LAB RATS...

PUT ON EARTH SO THAT JUNE CAN PERFECT HER MUTATIONS.

18 DEAD IN EXPLOSIVE CRANIAL INCIDENT

MOST OF HER "PATIENTS" DIE DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF "TREATMENT." THOSE WHO DON'T, SHE KILLS TO ENSURE SHE'S THE ONLY LIVING PERSON WITH HER ADVANCEMENTS.

MEDIA GAVE HER THE NAME THE *TOXIC DOXIE*, WAY BACK WHEN, BUT I DON'T THINK SHE CARES FOR IT MUCH.

WHAT ARE YOU EATING?

IBUPROFEN.

IF SHE'S GOT YOUR TEACHER, SHE'S LOOKING INTO THE GENETICS BEHIND TERRIGENESIS...

AND THAT IS VERY BAD NEWS FOR ALL OF US.

OH, GOOD. YOU'RE STILL HERE--

NATASHA, I NEED YOU IN CONFERENCE ROOM B. INFILTRATION OP.

ON IT, CAP. JESSICA, YOU HAVE THIS?

GOT IT.

IF YOU LADIES ARE DONE WITH ME FOR THE EVENING, I HAVE A PANDEMIC TO ATTEND TO AS WELL.

GO.

WAIT!

DR. BANNER, MS. BLACK... MS. WIDOW... MS.... SPY... LADY...

WHAT DO I CALL YOU?

"NATASHA" IS FINE.

I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU. BOTH OF YOU. ALL OF YOU.

AND SAY I'M SO, SO SORRY I CALLED YOU DUMB!

YOU CALLED ME DUMB?

NO, JUST HER.

OKAY.

YOU'RE WELCOME. AND GOOD LUCK.

GAHHH! I MADE THAT WEIRD.

WHAT'S THAT LIKE?

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

IS IT ABOUT BOYS?

NO.

THEN YES.

HOW DO I FIND JUNE COVINGTON?

HEMOGLOBAL LABORATORIES.

COME ON, COME ON, EVERY QUASI-LEGAL LAB OF FORBIDDEN SCIENCE HAS ONE OF THESE NOW...

...THERE. EXCELLENT.

BEGIN JOURNAL RECORDING:

ONE THING I LEARNED FROM NORMAN OSBORN-- THINKING OUT LOUD WORKS.

I SIMPLY DO NOT INSIST ON DOING THAT WHILE I DRIVE AROUND IN THE NUDE.

THIS HEALING SUIT IS WORKING TOO SLOWLY. EVEN WITH MY GENETIC ENHANCEMENTS. I SHOULD SHOP AROUND WHILE I'M HERE.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE, SWEETHEART.

THREE BROOM CLOSETS ON ONE FLOOR IS ABSURD, I DON'T CARE IF YOU USE BROKEN GLASS LIKE CONFETTI.

WHICH--IN POINT OF FACT-- I HAVE.

A

AH HA!

THISSSSSS IS MORE LIKE IT.

SHAK

WELL, HELLO, GORGEOUS...

THAT'S IT. THAT'S THE NEW GENE YOU GREW IN THE COCOON.

THAT IS WHAT I NEED INSIDE ME.

TO BE CONTINUED!

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

Have we got an extra-special X-Mas present for you! On December 24th, **AVENGERS #24.NOW** kicks off the next wave of ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW! titles! It's an oversized epic from Jonathan Hickman and Esad Ribic, a self-contained story that sets elements into motion that'll culminate in…but that would be telling! It's also available with Daniel Acuña's amazing six-foot AVENGERS 50th Anniversary poster, showcasing the whole blamed line-up! And this is just the first of what will be a bevy of all-star new releases from our best and brightest that will be coming your way in the opening months of 2014! Just look for the big confusing #1 on the cover, and you'll know you're where it's at!

(Couldn't even fit the whole image! It's HUGE!)

As if any more evidence were necessary to prove that Avengers mania is taking over the world, the whole White family took the opportunity to assemble this past Halloween! Left to right, we've got Charles, 8; Judi, 12; Kira, 9; Rachel, 6; Ethan, 11; and David, 8! Looking good, kids!

Hey! Here's a letter!

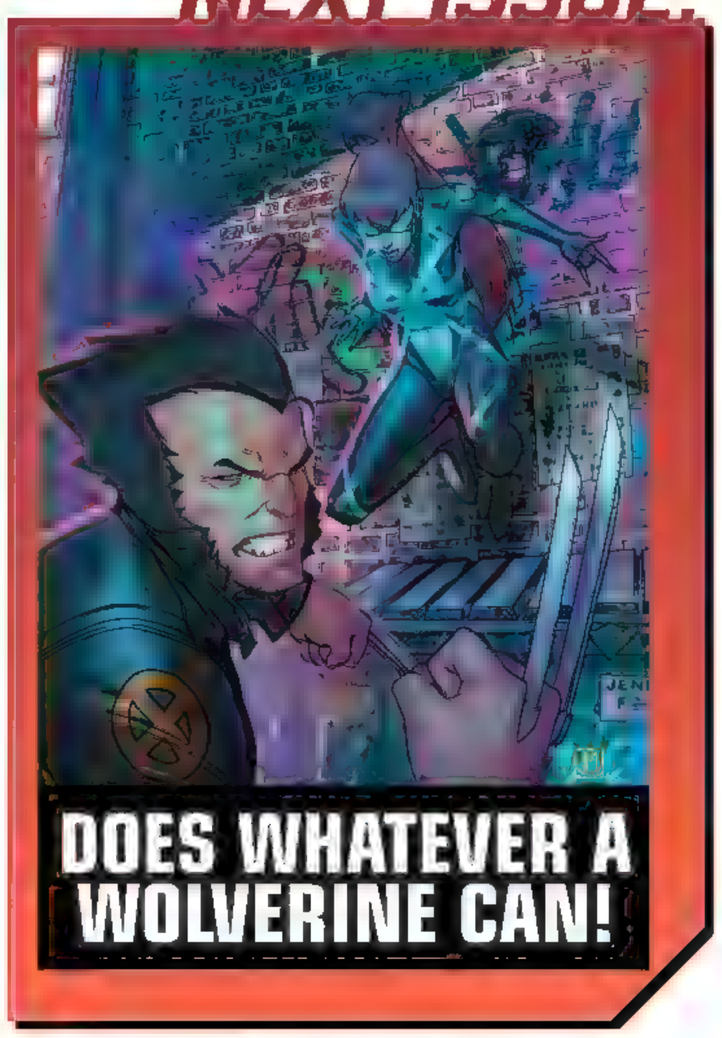
Hi! This is Matthew Sean and I am eleven years old. I've been reading Marvel Comics since as long as I can remember. I've read just about every series since 2005. And let me just say… UNCANNY AVENGERS is my all-time favorite!!!! It rocks! Not only does it have great dialogue by Rick, it also has great covers by John Cassaday, and awesome art. Keep it up.

Matthew Sean

P.S. It would be awesome if I get an e-mail back or even better… the letter of the month on UNCANNY AVENGERS #13.

Yeah, that would be pretty cool, Matthew! But what are the chances that it'll happen?

NEXT ISSUE:



AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #24.NOW
ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW! IS HERE AND SO IS A ROGUE PLANET ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH!

AVENGERS AI #7.INH
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! GUEST-STARRING DAREDEVIL!

AVENGERS ANNUAL #1
IT'S X-MAS EVE IN AVENGERS TOWER—AND MORE THAN MICE ARE STIRRING!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #22.INH
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! SPIDER-WOMAN, THE HULK AND SPIDER-GIRL ON THE TRAIL OF A NEW INHUMAN!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #4.INH
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! THE BIRTH OF RONIN! AND SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN DEMANDS LEADERSHIP!

NEW AVENGERS #13.INH
INHUMANITY TIE-IN! WHO ARE THE BLACK PRIESTS OF THE INCURSIONS?

SECRET AVENGERS #12
HOW TO MAIM A MOCKINGBIRD!

SECRET AVENGERS #13
A TRAITOR AMONG THE AVENGERS IS REVEALED!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #15
THE WASP VS THE SENTRY! REALLY? REALLY!

YOUNG AVENGERS #13
THE FINAL THROWDOWN WITH MOTHER AND HER YOUNG AVENGERS!

YOUNG AVENGERS #14
THE NEW YEAR'S AFTER-PARTY! GUEST-STARRING ALMOST EVERY YOUNG HERO THERE IS!

A + X #15
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS, PLUS DOCTOR STRANGE AND THE BEAST!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #3

INHUMANITY

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

DECONNICK
ELLIS
BUFFAGNI
WOODARD

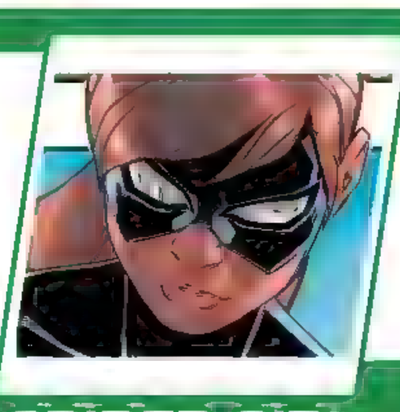
023
.INH

MARVEL

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW



SPIDER-GIRL
ANYA CORAZON
(NOT AN AVENGER)

WOLVERINE
JAMES "LOGAN"
HOWLETT

FILE: ASSEMBLE_22

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ALAN **FINE**
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

While the Avengers were off-planet fighting an alien threat, the Mad Titan Thanos led an invasion force to attack the Earth. Black Bolt, king of the Inhumans, in an effort to protect his people, detonated a Terrigen bomb, causing latent Inhumans hidden and scattered around Earth to cocoon and undergo the Terrigen Mists' mutating effects.

Two of these new Inhuman cocoons were stolen from their hospital room, one of which contained the teacher of Anya Corazon, A.K.A. Spider-Girl. Anya went to Spider-Woman and Black Widow for help tracking down information. Things quickly went south however as they were taken hostage by inter-dimensional arms dealer Kashmir Vennema. Team Spider Lady managed to escape from the goons Vennema left behind, and quickly tracked her down for information on the cocoon's buyer: one Dr. June Covington, A.K.A. The Toxic Doxie, A.K.A. Evil Geneticist Lady.

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AVENGERS TOWER.

SPIDER-WOMAN FOR MARIA HILL.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME?

I NEED A TRACE.

YEAH? WELL, WE HAVE A BIT OF A SITUATION HERE. SIDEBAR ACTIONS AND FAVORS ARE NOT REALLY WHAT S.H.I.E.L.D.'S DOING RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS RELATED. WE HAVE A ROGUE TERRIGENESIS COCOON. I NEED A TRACE ON DR. JUNE COVINGTON.

...

DUMPING TO YOUR PHONE IN FIVE MINUTES. I'M GOING BACK TO THIS WHOLE END-OF-THE-WORLD THING NOW, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT WI--

THANKS, MARIA.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER ILIAD.

THAT'S IT...?

THAT'S IT. IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS THING, YOU'LL NEED TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A NETWORK-- A WEB.

AND YOUR *PHONE* IS THE SIMPLEST, EASIEST WAY TO MOVE ACROSS THAT WEB.

DEEDLE DEEDLE

AND IT TELLS YOU WHEN YOUR COFFEE IS READY.

WHICH, IF YOU ASK ME, IS ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION.

NOTE TO SELF: GET A BETTER PHONE.

REDACTED

EL SALVADOR.

MUESTRAME TUS MANOS. TUS MANOS!

HEY, WHOA! WE'RE LOST, ALL RIGHT? HABLA ENGLISH? UH... LOSTO? LOST!

LO QUE ESTA EN EL AUTO? ¿ESTA EL CONTRABANDO DEL DROGAS? ¿ERES UN TRAFICANTE DEL DROGAS?

IT'S COOL, MAN...LOOK, SEE? YOU GOT A GUN, I GOT A NOTHING. YOU IN CHARGE.

¿QUE ES ESTO? ¿LOS DROGAS?

NO, NO, NO--NOT CARRYING DRUGS, MAN. CRICKETS! LEMME SHOW YOU...

SERIOUSLY, DUDES. CHEAP, NUTRITIONAL, LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT...WE COULD SOLVE WORLD HUNGER WITH THIS STUFF.

KRITCH

NO? SUIT YOURSELF.

WOULD HAVE MADE A HELL OF A LAST MEAL.

KHISSSSSS

AHHHHH!

SPLURK

KRITCH

BAKKA BAKKA BAKKA

AHHHH!

THIS WAY!

BAM BAM

BAKKA BAKKA

THWOMP

ARF ARF

ARF ARF

RRRRRRR

¡¿PERO QUÉ...?! ¿QUIEN ERES? WHO ARE YOU?

BUENOS DIAS, RAFAEL! JUNE COVINGTON. SORRY I CAN'T BE THERE IN PERSON. VERY BUSY. YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.

THAT COCOON YOU SOLD ME? YOU WERE GIVEN IT SPECIFICALLY TO SELL TO **ME**, WEREN'T YOU? BY WHOM?

BEFORE YOU ANSWER, LET ME ASSURE YOU, I UNDERSTAND THAT ARMS DEALERS **LIVE** BY A CODE OF SILENCE...

TODAY YOU DECIDE IF YOU WILL **DIE** BY IT.

A.I.M. NEW YORK CELL.

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES.

THERE'S TWO...

TWO YOLKS IN ONE EGG? YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THAT? IT'S ACTUALLY NOT ALL THAT UNCOM--

NO, KASHMIR SAID THERE WERE TWO *COCOONS*. WE'VE BEEN FOCUSING ON YOUR TEACHER, BUT *TWO* COCOONS WERE TAKEN.

A.I.M. STILL HAS A COCOON.

YEAH, WELL. I CAN ONLY DO ONE THING AT A TIME.

IS THAT WHY YOU PUT THE MASK ON? YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW YOU CAN'T WALK AND CHEW GUM AT THE SAME TIME?

NO, I PUT ON THE MASK BECAUSE "*SPIDER-GIRL*" DOESN'T EXACTLY STRIKE FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF THE COWARDLY.

LOOK, DON'T BE MEAN. I'M STILL NEW AT THIS. I NEED TO FOCUS ON ONE THING.

NOBODY EVER PRONOUNCED "*ARAÑA*" PROPERLY ANYWAY.

YOU CHOSE THAT NAME. YOU PUT THE MASK ON. YOU'RE WEARING THE GRIM AND GRITTY, BLACK AND SCARY BODYSUIT.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT. FOOD MAKES YOU STRONG.

YOUR BODY IS YOUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET. YOUR BODY IS HUNGRY, YOU *FEED IT.*

BACON. YOU FEED IT BACON. AT YOUR AGE.

YOU'RE LIKE *FORTY* OR SOMETHING.

YEAH AND I MIGHT HAVE TO LIVE ON PROTEIN BARS AND SALAD TO *STAY* IN IT.

YOU *EVER* INSULT *BACON* IN MY PRESENCE AGAIN, KID...

AND I WILL HIDE YOUR BODY SOMEWHERE NO ONE WILL EVER FIND IT.

ALLLWAYS WE WILL FIGHT AS ONE--

YOU REALLY DO HAVE THE BEST PHONE.

--YEAH, THROW IT UP ON SCREEN AVT-8. AND PASS ON MY THANKS TO MARIA.

SERIOUSLY, I WILL FIGHT YOU FOR THAT RINGTONE.

I AM OFFICIALLY DONE BABYSITTING.

THERE...

GREAT. I'M GONNA NEED TO FIND A RIDE.

WHAT, YOU CAN'T JUST *FWIP FWIP* ON HOME?

IT'S *THWIP THWIP*, AND I'M NOT GOING HOME. I'M GOING *THERE*.

WHAT'S THERE?

CRAZY MAD SCIENTIST LADY STOLE MY TEACHER'S BODY. I'M GONNA STEAL IT BACK.

FOR WHAT?

SO HIS FAMILY HAS SOMETHING TO BURY?

...

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?

THAT *IS* THE PLAN.

I GOT THIS, JESSICA. YOU CHECK IN WITH ROGERS. THEY NEED YOU.

THEY DON'T NEED YOU?

NOT FOR A BIT. GO.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? I'M NOT CALLING YOU "SPIDER-GIRL" ALL NIGHT.

ANYA.

LOGAN. DO YOU NEED SOMEWHERE TO CHANGE?

WHAT D'YOU MEAN? THIS IS MY SUIT. THIS IS WHAT I WEAR.

YOU'RE GOING BREAKING-AND-ENTERING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT DRESSED AS A GOTH GYMNAST...?

HOW DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT SPIDER-MAN'S STILL ALIVE?

WELL... UM...HE'S...

LUCKY! HE'S BEEN SHOT, STABBED, BLOWN UP AND EVERY OTHER DAMN THING WHILE WEARING NOTHING BUT PAJAMAS AND *LIVED*--

BECAUSE *DUMB LUCK.*

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I'M OLD *ENOUGH.*

LIKE HELL. YOU'RE A *BABY.*

I AIN'T CARRYING A DEAD BABY HOME TONIGHT. YOU TELL ME *EVERYTHING* YOU KNOW AND YOU DO *EXACTLY* AS I SAY.

THIS WAY.

DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

GOGGLES AND RESPIRATORS ARE ON THAT SHELF THERE. YOUR TARGET EXHALES DEADLY PIXIE DUST. YOU DON'T GO IN THERE WITH YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE OPEN.

GRAB ONE FOR ME, TOO.

WHY DO *YOU* NEED ONE? I THOUGHT YOU HAD A SUPER HEALING POWER THING.

YEAH... HAVING SOME ISSUES WITH THAT.

WHAT ARE THESE FOR?

HITTING PEOPLE. THERE'S SACKS OF STEEL POWDER AND PADDING IN THE KNUCKLES.

HEY, CHECK IT OUT, I FOUND ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S--

GREAT. NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IT SMELLS LIKE WHEN YOU TAKE A DUMP AND BREAK WIND AT THE SAME TIME. THERE'S PROBABLY A COUPLE OF KNIFE HOLES IN THERE TOO.

SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU?

SHUT UP. THE LAST THING I WANT TO HEAR AN HOUR FROM NOW IS, "OH NO, YOU FOUND OUT MY SECRET WEAKNESS IS GETTING STABBED!"

TAKE THIS COAT. PUT IT ON.

OH, *HELL* NO. NOT LIKE THAT. GIMME YOUR CLAW THINGS. WE'RE MAKING A FEW ALTERATIONS...

OKAY. CHANCES OF SURVIVING THE NIGHT: IMPROVED.

NOW WE BORROW A RIDE.

YOU GUYS ARE BASICALLY AN EPISODE OF "HOARDERS" JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN.

SHUT UP.

WE'RE *DRIVING* THERE? IN THIS?

DOES IT TAKE GASOLINE, OR DO WE HAVE TO FEED IT COAL? OR OATS?

IT EATS LITTLE GIRLS. GET IN.

RUUM RUUM KAK

IS IT GONNA START? SHOULD I EVEN BOTHER TO PUT MY SEATBELT ON?

YES AND YES. NOW QUIT YAPPING BEFORE I SWAT YOU.

AND HOLD ON.

AH HA HA HA!

WHOOOOOOAAAA!

VRRSHHH

OKAY. THIS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY COOL.

WHICH WAY, KID?

NORTH.

NORTH IT IS.

THE PRIVATE LABORATORY OF DR. JUNE COVINGTON, GENETICIST.
A.K.A. THE TOXIC DOXIE.

WANNA LEARN HOW TO BREAK INTO A SECURE UNIT?

DOES A BEAR POOP IN THE WOODS?

YOU EVER MET A BEAR?

DO YOU COUNT?

TOUCHÉ.

LESSON'S CANCELED ANYWAY. IDIOTS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN.

HOOKAY. LESSON FIVE. SIX? WHATEVER. THIS IS A LOOTING. YOU NEED ONE OF THEM TO TALK?

YEAH.

PICK ONE WHO LOOKS COLLEGE-EDUCATED AND BREAK HIS LEG. THE WORKING STIFFS NEVER KNOW THE GOOD STUFF.

READY?

TO BREAK A LEG? NO.

GET THERE. 'CUZ WE'RE ABOUT TO CRASH THE PARTY.

SNIKT

SNIKT

GO.

AHHHHHHH!

AHHHHHH!

BATTER UP!

SHHTUK

UM...

YOU BLEW IT.

BONK!

STRIKE!

WHOA! HOLD THE PHONE!

STRIKE MEANS TWO DIFFERENT THINGS IN BOWLING AND BASEBALL.

THAT IS JUST LAZY BANTER.

THWIP

HUH?

WHKK

WAAAAAHH--

THNK

HAKK

LAST CALL! WHO WANTS TO GET HIT IN THE FACE WITH A BLOCK OF METAL?

NOBODY? COME ON, GUYS--

KID...BEHIND THAT DOOR.

ONE... TWO...

...THREE!

THAT'S NOT COVINGTON, IS IT?

NOPE. BUT THIS ONE LOOKS EDUCATED, DON'T SHE?

SHE DO.

BACK OFF. THIS IS MINE. I EARNED IT. I DESERVE IT. I *WILL* KILL YOU.

YOU DON'T WANNA DO THAT.

WHY NOT? BECAUSE I'M THE ASSISTANT? BECAUSE I'M THE SMALL FRY? I'M THE *LITTLE PEOPLE*, SO I *CAN'T* KILL YOU?

I KILLED MY BROTHER, I KILLED MY *MOTHER*, I CAN SURE AS HELL KILL *YOU*.

YEAH? CAN YOU KILL US BOTH AT *ONCE*?

'CUZ WHOEVER LIVES IS GONNA WORK THEIR GRIEF OUT ON YOUR CORPSE.

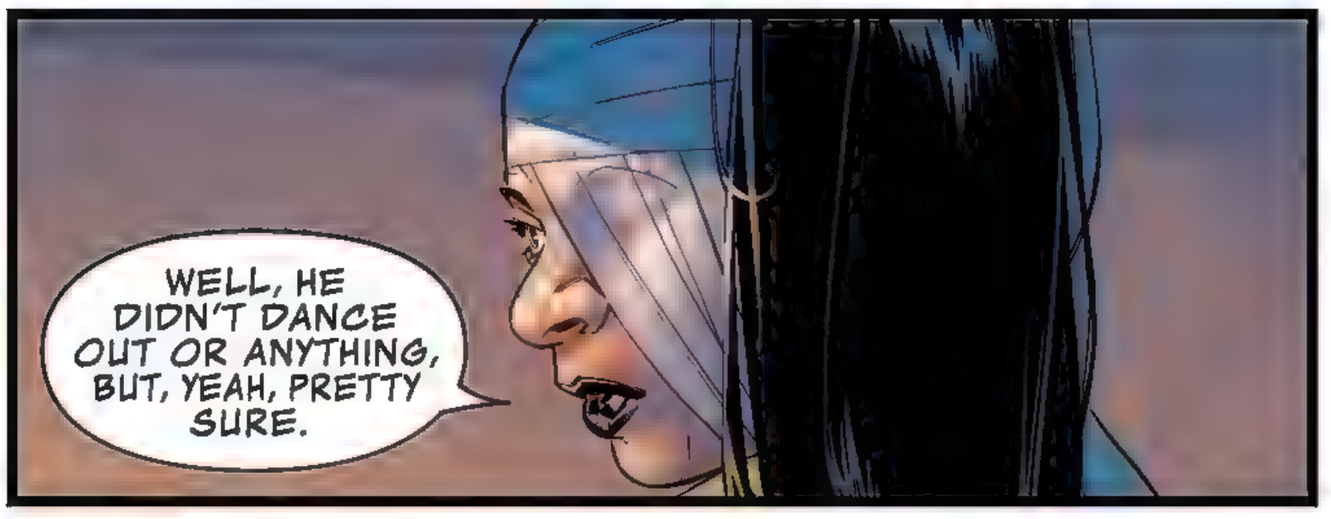
READY WHEN YOU ARE, SMALL FRY.

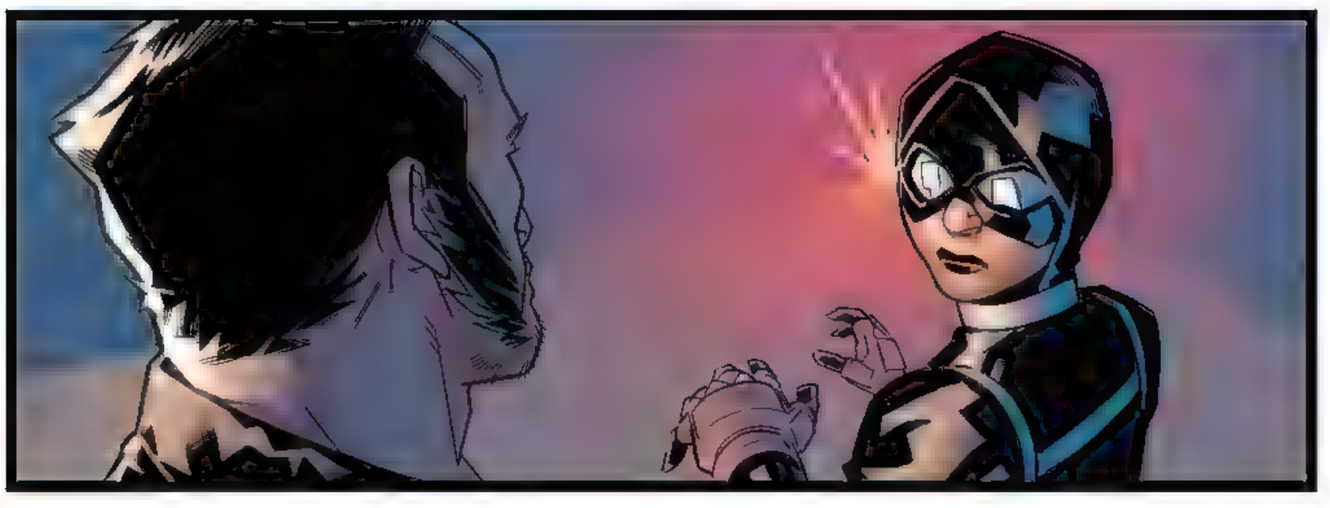
SNIKT

YOU'RE SMARTER THAN YOU LOOK.
COVINGTON BAILED.

AFTER THAT *THING* BLEW UP. TOOK THE GUY WHO WAS IN IT AND LEFT. THEY WERE BOTH REAL MESSED UP.
TOOK HIM WHERE?
WOULDN'T SAY. BUT IT'S GONNA BE A LAB WITH A *LOT* OF POWERFUL GENE-THERAPY DEVICES. SHE'S GONNA TRY AND FIX HIM.

THE GUY IN THE COCOON? HE WAS *ALIVE?* YOU'RE SURE?


WELL, HE DIDN'T DANCE OUT OR ANYTHING, BUT, YEAH, PRETTY SURE.



HE'S ALIVE.

MAYBE. AND MAYBE YOU'LL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND HIM.

LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW WHO PEED IN YOUR--

NO, YOU LISTEN, ANYA.

I'VE SEEN KIDS YOUNGER THAN YOU DIE YOUNGER THAN YOU BECAUSE THEY WENT INTO HARD PLACES AND COULDN'T MAKE HARD CHOICES.

IF YOU'RE GONNA DO THIS? IF YOU'RE GONNA BE THIS, YOU'VE GOT TO BE AS PREPARED TO GET WHAT YOU WANT AS THEY ARE TO GET WHAT THEY WANT.

THEY'RE THE BAD GUYS. YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD BE A BAD GUY?

ONLY IF WHAT YOU WANT CAUSES MORE PAIN. WHAT DECIDES WHO YOU ARE IS WHAT YOU WANT AND WHY.

IF YOU WANT THE RIGHT THING, THE FAIR THING? THEN HOW YOU GET IT IS LESS IMPORTANT, IF YOU ASK ME.

YOU PUT THAT SUIT ON, YOU'RE DECLARING TO THE WORLD YOU'RE READY TO MAKE THE HARD CHOICES.

LIVE UP TO IT.

LET'S GET YOU BACK TO THE BARN, SPIDER-GIRL.

ELSEWHERE.

THAT'S GOOD INHUMAN DNA. *VERY* GOOD...

YOU'RE A PART OF ME NOW...

WHAT SAY YOU AND I GO FOR A STROLL?

TO BE CONTINUED!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

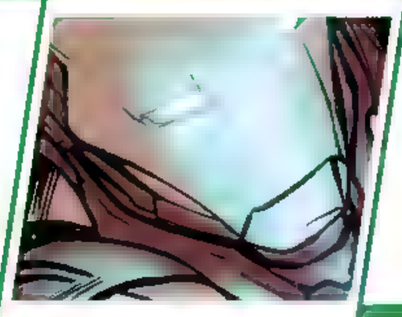
DECONNICK
ELLIS
BUFFAGNI
REDMOND

MARVEL

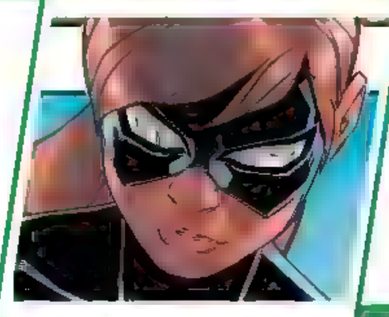
024

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE



IRON MAN
TONY STARK



SPIDER-GIRL
ANYA CORAZON
(NOT AN AVENGER)

CAPTAIN AMERICA
STEVE ROGERS

FILE: ASSEMBLE_23

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Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans, to protect his people from an invasion force led by the Mad Titan Thanos, detonated a Terrigen bomb, causing latent Inhumans hidden and scattered around Earth to cocoon and undergo the Terrigen Mists' mutating effects.

Two of these new Inhuman cocoons were stolen by the terrorist organization A.I.M. One was sent to a very particular buyer, Dr. June Covington, A.K.A. The Toxic Doxie A.K.A. Evil Geneticist Lady, who planned to use the comatose Inhuman's DNA to enhance her own. However, June's ill-gotten cocoon just so happened to contain the teacher of one Anya Corazon, A.K.A. Spider-Girl. After having Spider-Woman and Black Widow track down Covington, Spider-Girl teamed up with Wolverine to retrieve the cocoon. Arriving at June's lab too late to catch June, Wolverine and Spider-Girl did confirm that Anya's teacher was still alive, but for how long remains to be seen...

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STARK

AVENGERS TOWER.

DO YOU LIVE HERE NOW, ANYA?

LOGAN BROUGHT ME BACK HERE, MR. STARK.

RIGHT. THE ABDUCTION CASE. HOW'S IT GOING?

DR. COVINGTON TOOK MY TEACHER... AWAY. SOMEWHERE. ANOTHER LAB, WE THINK.

THAT'S IT. I'M STUCK.

SO LOOK AT YOUR CARDS. WHAT DO YOUR CARDS TELL YOU?

MY WHAT?

YOUR INDEX CARDS. NOTEBOOKS. PRIVATE WIKI, I DUNNO...EVERNOTE? WHATEVER YOU USE.

USE FOR WHAT?

OH, MY GOD.

YOU DON'T HAVE A FILE SYSTEM.

WHAT WOULD I NEED A FILE SYSTEM FOR? I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL.

GREAT! THEN PRESUMABLY YOU UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO STUDY.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING, BY THE WAY?

LOGAN... ADDED SOME STUFF.

YOU TOOK FASHION TIPS FROM A MAN WHO WEARS A REVERSE MOHAWK?

I SHOULD TAKE IT OFF?

COME ON-- DON'T ASK ME! THINK IT THROUGH. IS IT A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE BAD GUYS FOUR NEW WAYS TO GRAB YOU?

STUDY THE PROBLEM!

OH, UH-UH. YOU DON'T GET TO LECTURE ME! YOU'RE A GENIUS BAZILLIONAIRE WHO NEVER HAD TO STUDY A DAY IN HIS LIFE.

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

I STUDY. I STUDY *EVERY DAY.* I DON'T DO MY HOMEWORK, I *DIE* IN THIS CAN.

THIS IS MY PRIVATE CLOUD, WHERE I KEEP MY NOTES... MY INDEX CARDS.

I CAN ACCESS THEM THROUGH MY SUIT, AND IN ANY OF A DOZEN OTHER LOCATIONS.

WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE ALL THE SUPERCOMPUTERS?

INDEX CARDS. KEEP UP! SERIOUSLY. WANT TO SEE?

THIS IS HOW I STARTED. EASY, RIGHT?

JUST LIKE SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK SAID. KNOWLEDGE *IS* POWER.

YOU BUILD KNOWLEDGE, ANYA, BIT BY BIT, EVERY DAY. EVERY LITTLE THING YOU LEARN, YOU PUT IN HERE. AND EVENTUALLY YOU GET SOMETHING LIKE THIS--

--THE BIG PICTURE.

IN THIS INSTANCE: EVERY SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT WORTH TALKING ABOUT, AND ALL THE ONES PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT, TOO.

A.I.M., THE BEYOND CORPORATION, ROXXON, THE SECRET EMPIRE, PROJECT: PEGASUS, GRAYMALKIN, MYS-TECH...

THE MADSCIENCEOSPHERE.

THESE ARE ALL... BAD GUYS?

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A "GOOD" INSTITUTION. THE BEST YOU GET ARE INSTITUTIONS WITH STRONG OVERSIGHT.

LET'S CLEAR THOSE WITH STRONG OVERSIGHT OFF THE BOARD RIGHT NOW.

WAIT, YOU'RE SAYING THERE ARE NO GOOD GUYS?

NO, I'M SAYING YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING YOU CAN'T *SEE*. AND ALL YOU'RE LOOKING AT HERE...

...ARE THE *TIPS* OF HUNDREDS OF *ICEBERGS*.

LET'S TAKE A PEEK UNDERNEATH A QUASI-POLITICAL ENTITY LIKE THE NEW A.I.M. HERE.

VOILÀ.

WHAT IS ALL THAT?

SUBSTATIONS, SAFE HOUSES, EXTRACTION POINTS...A.I.M. ARE BIG ON REDUNDANCY. THEY CAN LOSE ANY ONE POINT AND STILL HAVE WAYS TO MOVE PEOPLE AND ASSETS IN AND OUT OF TOWN.

AND THEN THERE ARE THE INSTITUTIONS WITH LAX OVERSIGHT. AND THE OTHERS THAT ARE BASICALLY JUST CRIMINAL OPERATIONS.

DON'T TRASH THOSE! WE WANT THOSE!

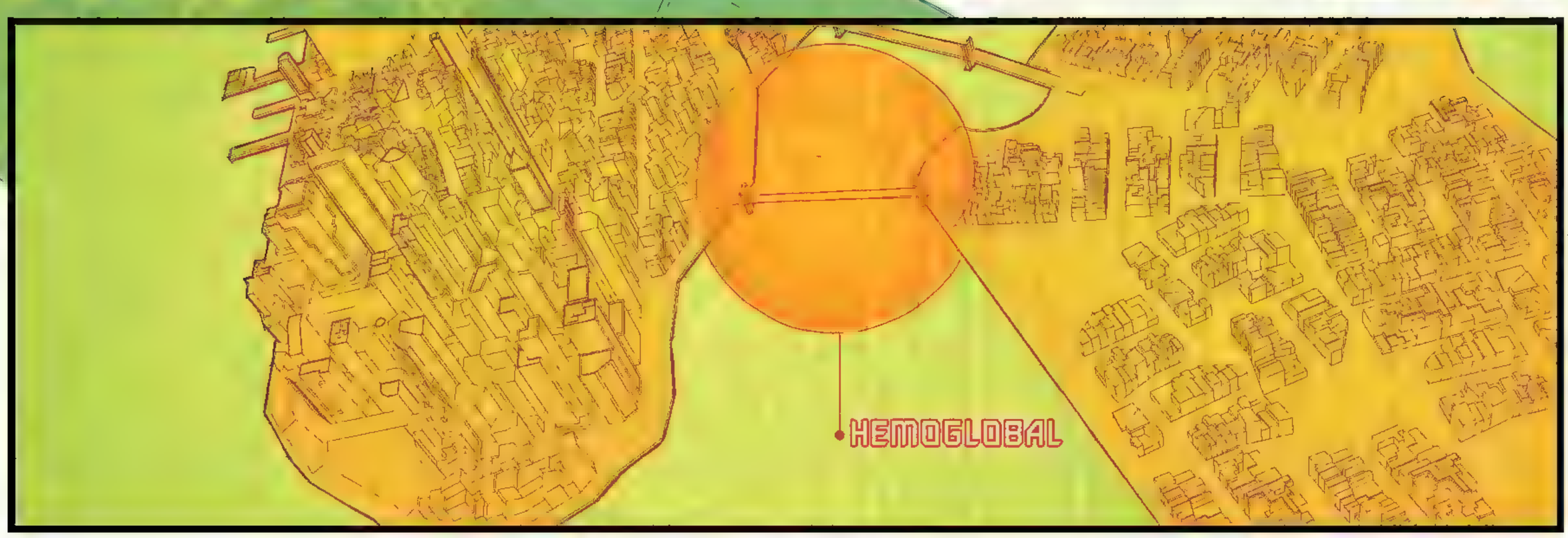
YOU'D THINK. BUT THOSE EITHER COME WITH EXCELLENT SECURITY, OR ARE SO ***BURIED*** THAT EVEN COVINGTON WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM.

OKAY, BACK UP. WHAT DO WE KNOW? SHE'S ON HER OWN AND PROBABLY ***CARRYING*** MR. SCHLICKEISEN.

SHE'S PRESSED FOR TIME. SO SOMEWHERE THAT'S SKETCHY, BUT NOT PARANOID.

SOMEWHERE SHE CAN EXPECT TO FIND A RELATIVELY HIGH-END GENE SCIENCE APPARATUS.

NOT THIS ONE, NOT THAT ONE. WHICH LEAVES...



THAT WORKS. WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE OF HER OWN LAB. RUN BY PEOPLE WITH MORE MONEY THAN SENSE.

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S WHERE I'M HEADED THEN. THANKS!

HANG ON, I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT.

THANK YOU, NO. APPRECIATE IT, BUT I'VE HAD ALL THE PATRONIZING ADULTS I CAN TAKE FOR ONE DAY.

I CAN GET YOU THERE FAST.

HOW FAST?

ROCKET BOOT FAST.

TURNS OUT I CAN STOMACH A *LITTLE* MORE PATRONIZING.

OH, LOTS MORE. I HAVE NOT YET ***BEGUN*** TO PATRONIZE.

SPEAKING OF, WHAT DID YOU DECIDE TO DO WITH THE OUTFIT?

...I MIGHT KEEP THE GLOVES.

HEMOGLOBAL LABS.

NO MOTION DETECTED...

HEAT TRACES THIS WAY.

IS HE...?

DEAD.

HOW DEAD?

PRETTY DEAD. IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A LITTLE DEAD?

SURE SEEMS LIKE IT SOMETIMES.

WELL, HE'S GOT NO PULSE, SCANNERS CONFIRM NO BRAIN ACTIVITY, BODY TEMPERATURE IS--

OH, GOD--!

HOW DO YOU CHECK FOR A PULSE? HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU'RE DOING IT RIGHT?

THERE WAS NO PULSE, KID--

NOT ON THAT GUY, ON MR. SCHLICK! MY TEACHER! THE GUY WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS WHOLE TIME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING--

WHAT THE--?

HE'S BREATHING! I CAN SEE HIM BREATHING.

MR. SCHLICK'S FRESH OUT OF A TERRIGEN COCOON AND HE'S ALIVE. THAT MEANS HE'S GOT NEW GENETICS, RIGHT?

YEAH...

WELL... IS MACHINE INVISIBILITY A THING? MAYBE THAT'S HIS INHUMAN ABILITY. AND IF COVINGTON BROUGHT HIM ALL THIS WAY AND THEN DUMPED HIM, THEN...

THEN SHE'S USED THIS EQUIPMENT TO REPLICATE THAT TRAIT AND TAKEN OFF WITH IT.

HE'S EITHER CLOAKED OR HE'S NOT REALLY THERE. MY ONBOARD SYSTEMS DON'T SEE HIM AT ALL.

SO WHAT'VE YOU LEARNED? WHERE ARE WE HEADED ONCE THE MEDICS HAVE TEACH?

INDEX CARDS! GOTTA FIND MY NEXT LEAD...

...OR MY NEXT LEAD COULD FIND ME.

BUT...WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR THE A.I.M. SPOT THAT--

SUBSTATIONS, REMEMBER? WE'RE NOT FAR FROM WHERE THEY HOUSE ADDITIONAL SECURITY FORCES.

THING IS, YOU DON'T JUST WALTZ INTO...HA!

YOU DON'T WALTZ INTO A SECURE SUBSTATION UNLESS SECURITY SYSTEMS CAN'T SEE YOU.

NO CHANCE SHE HUNG ALL THESE A.I.M. GUYS BY HERSELF, IS THERE?

NO. SHE HAD HELP.

I WONDER IF SHE DOSED HER "HELP" WITH A NEW GENETIC PLUG-IN FIRST.

THIS JUST BECAME A MUCH BIGGER THING.

MADISON AVENUE, NYC.

ARE YOU NOT GONNA EAT?

IDIOT INTERN HEATED MINE UP IN THE BIO LAB MICROWAVE.

I'LL EAT IT IF YOU WON'T.

WHOA! WHAT THE--?!

WHAT'S THAT GUY LOOKING AT?

MAYBE...

I DUNNO. YOU SEE THAT VIDEO THEY SHOT HERE LAST WEEK? MAYBE THEY'RE DANCERS.

BAM BAM BAM

PEEK-A-BOO!...

...I SEE YOU.

SQUINCH

TO CONTROL AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN BEES...

...YOU SMOKE THE HIVE.

POP YOUR CAPSULES AND PUT YOUR MASKS ON, BOYS. I'M HEADED FOR CENTRAL VENTILATION WITH A TOXIN HOT ENOUGH TO EAT THROUGH A.I.M. HAZMAT SUITS.

KEFF KEF-- HRK!

WE NEED TO SEND ANOTHER MESSAGE. I WANT A.I.M. TERRIFIED AND CONFUSED.

ON IT.

"THANK YOU, HOWARD. THAT'LL DO."

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

IT'S NOT A COMA. IT'S A MINIMALLY CONSCIOUS STATE.

BUT AS WE CAN'T SCAN HIS BRAIN OR GET ANY KIND OF READING OFF HIM, OUR OPTIONS ARE *REALLY* LIMITED.

LOOK, WE'RE NOT EXPECTING HIM TO BE ABLE TO TELL US ANYTHING. WE JUST--

I'D LIKE HIM TO BE ABLE TO TELL *ME* SOMETHING. WE'RE AT THE SHARP END OF A SUDDEN GLOBAL MEDICAL CRISIS AND I COULD USE SOME INFORMATION.

JUST FIVE MINUTES WITH SOME KIND OF COMMUNICATION COULD--

I NEED ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE. RIGHT NOW.

ZOLPIDEM IS AMBIEN. THAT'S A SLEEPING PILL, DOC.

NOT FOR PEOPLE IN MCS. IN A PERCENTAGE OF THOSE CASES, IT WAKES THEM UP. *FAST.*

I-I WAS AWAKE...

I WAS LOCKED IN MY BODY BUT I WAS AWAKE.

SOMEONE CALLED "AIM" HAS GOT THE OTHER COCOON.

THAT WOMAN... SHE'S GOING TO GET IT.

THAT WOMAN--!

SHE GOT WHAT SHE WANTED FROM ME AND SHE'S GOING TO USE IT TO KILL EVERYONE BETWEEN HER AND THAT COCOON, SO SHE CAN TAKE WHAT SHE WANTS FROM IT, TOO--!

BABY, DON'T TRY TO--

IT'S OKAY, MR. SCHLICKEISEN! WE CAN TAKE THINGS FROM HERE.

I NEED TO FIND THAT OTHER COCOON.

SO YOUR PLAN IS TO INFILTRATE AN A.I.M. BASE FULL OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KILL YOU, WHICH IS ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED BY JUNE COVINGTON AND GOD KNOWS WHO ELSE, WHO WILL WANT TO KILL YOU...

...TO RESCUE SOMEONE IN A TERRIGEN COCOON WHO YOU DON'T KNOW AND MIGHT ALSO WAKE UP AND WANT TO KILL YOU?

PRETTY MUCH. YEAH. YOU IN?

"COME ON BACK TO THE BARN. THERE'S SOMEONE YOU SHOULD TALK TO FIRST."

STARK

STEVE. SOMEBODY I WANT YOU TO SEE...

ANYA CORAZON. I'M STEVE ROGERS. NICE TO MEET YOU PROPERLY.

HI. AGAIN. I GUESS. HI.

THERE'S DEFINITELY A TERRIGEN COCOON IN THE A.I.M. NEW YORK BUILDING.

LAST I HEARD, WE ONLY HAD KASHMIR'S WORD ON THAT.

THIS COMES FROM THE MAN IN THE OTHER ABDUCTED COCOON--ANYA'S TEACHER. HE'S ALIVE, AND HIS TERRIGEN TRAIT APPEARS TO BE A FORM OF CLOAKING. HE'S INVISIBLE TO MACHINES.

AAAAND JUNE COVINGTON HAD HIM.

CHARMING.

YEP. WE THINK SHE'S ARMED HERSELF AND OTHERS WITH THAT TRAIT, AND IS GOING AFTER THE SECOND COCOON.

SHE HIT AN A.I.M. SUBSTATION, HANGING HALF THE STAFF FROM THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

TSSSHH

SHE HIT ANOTHER A.I.M. SUBSTATION, JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO.

SHE'S THINNING OUT THEIR FORCES, SO THE MAIN HUB CAN'T SUMMON REINFORCEMENTS.

TERRIGEN MIST COCOON ACTIVITY
>24 hrs
<24 hrs

AND WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT REMAINING COCOON HAS OPENED... WHICH MEANS THERE'S STILL THE POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS DISASTER.

SPIDER-GIRL. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

UM...THERE IS NO "WE." THIS IS MY PROBLEM. I CAN GO IN AND GET HIM.

NO OFFENSE, BUT...I ASKED YOU GUYS FOR HELP ONCE. I DON'T ASK TWICE.

SHE'S STUBBORN.

YOU SEE WHY WE LIKE HER?

LITTLE BIT.

I CAN'T *IMAGINE* WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE TO LIVE WITH A CHARACTER DEFECT LIKE THAT. CAN YOU?

THE AVENGERS ARE INCREDIBLY BUSY WITH THIS GLOBAL THING, RIGHT?! SO, FINE. *YOU* ACT GLOBAL, *I'LL* ACT LOCAL.

WE *HAVE* BEEN BUSY. AND YET, THE WHOLE TIME, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING WITH US. WITH THE BLACK WIDOW, AND CAPTAIN MARVEL, AND SPIDER-WOMAN, AND BRUCE BANNER, AND LOGAN, AND TONY.

BUT... I THOUGHT...

YOU THOUGHT WE WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION? THAT WE DIDN'T CARE?

EVERY ONE OF US HAS BEEN WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW. THIS PLACE, THIS IS WHERE WE ALL COME WHEN THE MONSTERS WE FACE ARE TOO POWERFUL OR TOO PLENTIFUL...

FROM THE MOMENT YOU STEPPED FOOT IN HERE...

...YOU WERE NEVER ALONE.

AND NOW, THANKS TO YOUR HARD WORK IN TEAMS, WE'VE GOT WHAT WE NEED TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION.

TONY!

STEVE!

WE'RE GOING TO NEED HAWKEYE, SPIDER-WOMAN, CAPTAIN MARVEL, SHANG-CHI, HYPERION, THE WIDOW, BRUCE AND LOGAN. MAYBE MORE.

YOU'RE UP, TOO.

ON MY WAY.

I, UH, YEAH... I MEAN...

ANYA, HOW ABOUT YOU?

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP.

WELCOME ABOARD, SPIDER-GIRL.

LET'S GET SOME AVENGERS ASSEMBLED.

TO BE CONCLUDED!

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

He walked away with the Avengers film! And now, the silver-tongued prince of lies is starring in his own All-New Marvel Now! series: **LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD**! Written by **MIGHTY AVENGERS**' own Al Ewing and illustrated by Lee Garbett, the God of Mischief has a new mission, a new weapon, and a new outlook on life. But still, some things never change! And don't be surprised if you spot a few of Earth's Mightiest guest-stars in the pages of the first issue! It's Loki, the lord of larceny, just the way you like him best! (Hey, would we lie to you?)

It's changing-of-the-guard time here at Avengers headquarters! First, Lauren Sankovitch, who distinguished herself as the editorial top kick of such titles as **THOR: GOD OF THUNDER**, **YOUNG AVENGERS**, **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** and **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE** has left our hallowed halls to seek fame and fortune in far-off Los Angeles! Look for El Sank to be transitioning into the world of television -- and not merely watching it! Stepping into her sensible shoes is Marvel newcomer Wil Moss, who made his bones across town working on such series as THE FLASH, GREEN ARROW and SUICIDE SQUAD, and who'll be bringing the same magic to the new **SECRET AVENGERS** and **AVENGERS WORLD**, among other assignments! So consider your scorecards updated!

And now, it's time for your favorite and ours: the Letter of the Month:

Dearest comics-makin' folks,

This is a long letter, and I apologize in advance for that, but I promise it's full of good happy words.

I've been reading comics in some form or another since I was able to read anything. My dad, having mostly moved towards "indie" comics by the time I came around, didn't have any super hero books for me to read, but he'd always tell me about the fun and freaky adventures he remembered from growing up on the Fantastic Four and the Mighty Thor. His wife at the time worked at the American Cancer Society, and one day she came home with an anti-smoking comic they had recently reprinted, which I dutifully read over and over and over.

Yes, my first Marvel comic was Spider-Man, Storm, and Power Man Battle Smokescreen. Let it be a testament to the impact this book had on me that I have literally never touched a cigarette in my life.

Ever since then, I've been adding to my Marvel collection at an increasing rate. From odd issues picked up at antique stores, to my first month-by-month book in the FANTASTIC FOUR run by Mark Waid and the much-missed Mike Wieringo, to today, where I work at what's widely considered one of the best comic shops in the country. Even with the incredible explosion of output from other publishers, Marvel books still make up a solid half of what I take home every week.

Recently, you announced a slew of new titles, several of them starring or prominently featuring female characters. As a woman, I was obviously thrilled at the news, especially at the preview covers that looked blissfully not like the eye-roll-worthy pinups I've come to expect from your competition.

These past couple of years have also seen characters from other oft-neglected groups (and combinations thereof) either debut or come back into the spotlight after lengthy absences. YOUNG AVENGERS is one of the few pieces of "teen media" that actually feels like the teens I know. The strong characterization in MIGHTY AVENGERS has shot Al Ewing to the top of my "read everything he does" list. And I swear to god if you guys are canceling the Ultimate line like everyone thinks you are you better get Miles Morales and whatever remains of his supporting cast out of there because that boy is a treasure.

Now, there are spoil-sports out there who like to mock these kinds of books. Spoil-sports who say that these titles are "too niche", that there aren't enough women/queer/POC readers to support them. (Because what straight white man would bother reading about characters outside his immediate experience, amirite dudes?)

Alas, it's a sad certainty that characters like the new Ms. Marvel will never sell as many units as, say, the main SPIDER-MAN title. But neither will Moon Knight, or Wonder Man, or Taskmaster. With so many readers crunched for cash or only interested in "important" books, any B-or-less-List character is starting with the odds stacked against them, whatever their skin color or pronoun preference.

(This isn't me saying "no" to a Taskmaster solo, by the way.)

So thank you, Marvel.

Thank you for filling your lineup not just with regurgitations of the same template, but with books that vary in tone and theme and style.

Thank you for having women who reflect many different kinds of womanhood, who can be smart or silly or straight-laced as the situation demands.

Thank you for having characters of all sorts of races and ethnicities, and of multiple races and ethnicities, who have the full respect of their peers.

Thank you for having gay, lesbian, and bi characters who aren't just jokes or fanservice fodder but real people with hopes and fears and complex relationships.

Thank you for having disabled characters who play an important role in your stories, both as members of a hero's supporting cast and as heroes in their own right.

Thank you for not having much in the way of trans representation yet, but creating the kind of environment where I truly can see it happening, and eagerly await the day that it does.

Thank you for living up to the idea that not just any person, but any kind of person, can be a hero.

Your Fan Forever,
Angelica Brenner

NEXT ISSUE:

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #26
THE CRY IS ADAPT OR DIE AS THE ALL-NEW AVENGERS TAKE THE FIGHT TO A.I.M.!

AVENGERS A.I. #9
GUEST-STARRING THE UNCANNY AVENGERS, AS OUR HEROES INVADE THE DIAMOND!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #24
IRON MAN AND SPIDER-GIRL JOIN FORCES TO RESCUE A NEW INHUMAN!

AVENGERS WORLD #3
SHANG-CHI IN A BRUTAL ONE-ON-ONE CONFRONTATION WITH THE GORGON!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #6
THE FALCON ON THE HUNT! LUKE AND ADAM IN EACH OTHER'S FACES!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #7
THE WHITE TIGER STALKS THE MAN WHO KILLED HER BROTHER!

NEW AVENGERS #15
MEET THE MAPMAKERS, CARTOGRAPHERS OF THE APOCALYPSE!

SECRET AVENGERS #15
AN UNEXPECTED DEATH BEGINS THE FINAL CURTAIN FOR THE CLANDESTINE TEAM!

SECRET AVENGERS #16
FINAL ISSUE! WHO WILL LIVE AND WHO WILL DIE?

UNCANNY AVENGERS #17
EVERY AVENGER ON EARTH JOINS FORCES TO PREVENT THE END OF THE WORLD!

A + X #17
IRON MAN AND BROO, PLUS THE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS EPIC CONTINUES!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #6

AVENGERS

ASSEMBLE

DECONNICK
ELLIS
BUFFAGNI
MEIKIS
REDMOND

MARVEL

025

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

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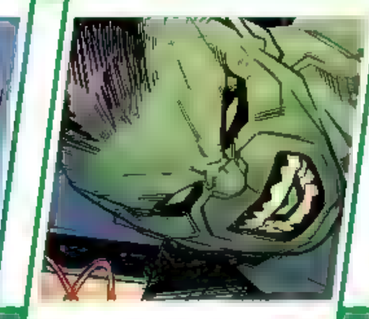
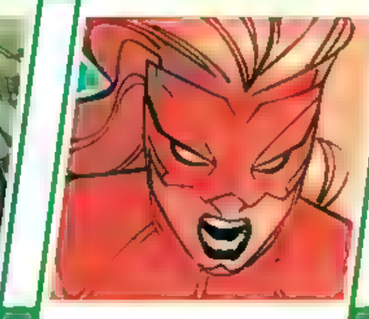
SPIDER-WOMAN
JESSICA DREW

WOLVERINE
JAMES "LOGAN" HOWLETT



HULK
DR. BRUCE BANNER



CAPTAIN MARVEL
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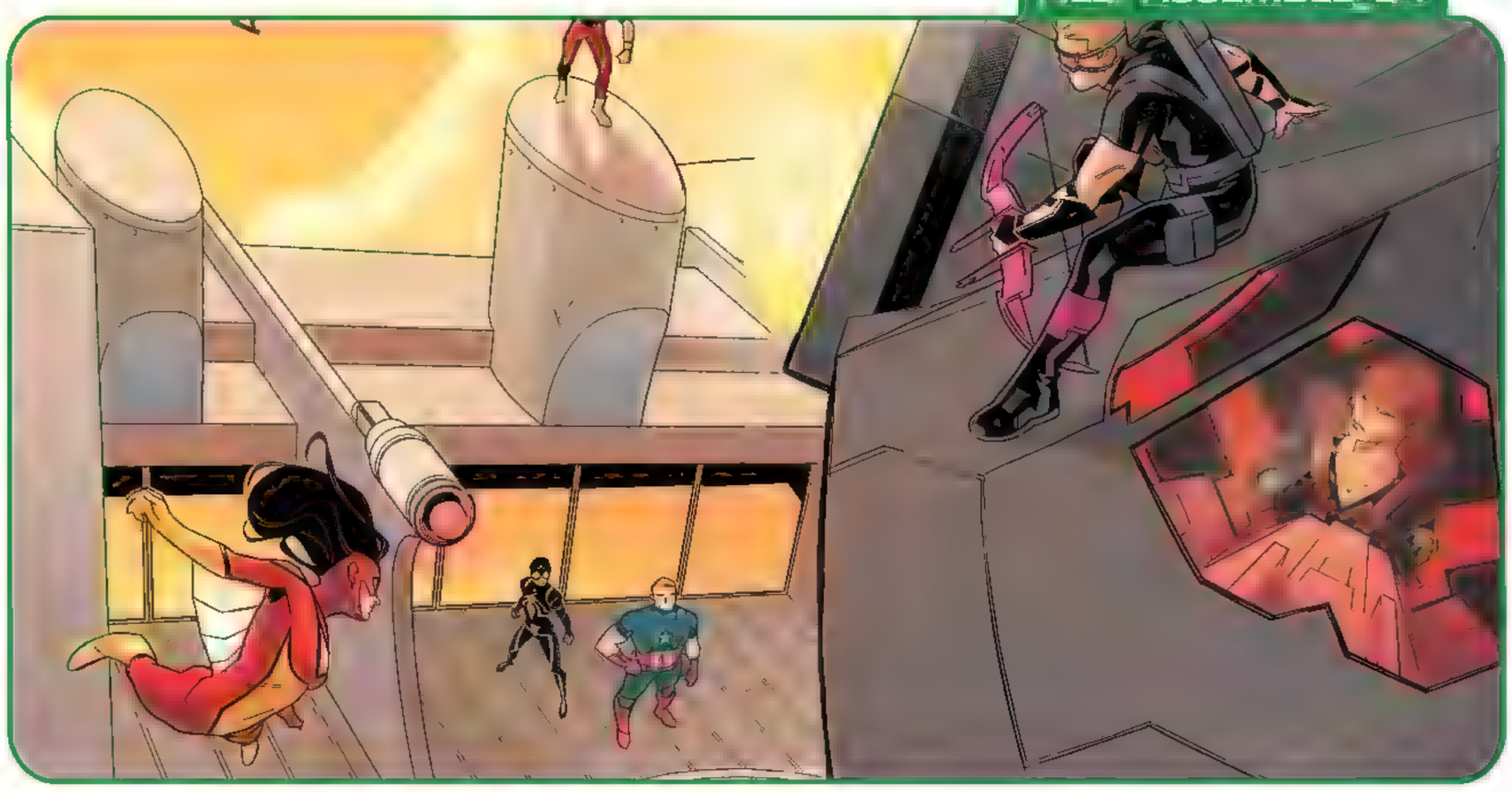

To protect his people from an invasion force led by the Mad Titan Thanos, Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans, detonated a Terrigen bomb, causing latent Inhumans hidden and scattered around Earth to cocoon and undergo the Terrigen Mists' mutating effects.

Spider-Girl has been investigating the disappearance of her teacher, who was kidnapped while enveloped in a Terrigenesis cocoon. So far, she has enlisted the help of Spider-Woman, Black Widow, The Hulk, Wolverine, and Iron Man, all of whom have very specific ideas on how Spider-Girl can be a better super hero. Together, they discovered that the former terrorist (or so they say) organization A.I.M. was behind the kidnapping, and that AIM had already sold the cocoon of Spider-Girl's teacher...

...to Dr. June Covington, a.k.a. the Toxic Doxie, whose only goal was to exploit the superhuman gene of the person inside. The cocoon was rigged with explosives, however, and destroyed her lab. After regrouping, with Spider-Girl's teacher still alive, the Toxic Doxie successfully synthesized Spider-Girl's teacher's new Inhuman ability – machine invisibility – for Covington's own genetic make-up. June planned to get her revenge on A.I.M., and to secure A.I.M.'s own second cocoon for her own.

The Avengers, thanks to the help of Spider-Girl, have rescued her teacher and are now assembled to save the second cocoon...and to take the Toxic Doxie down once and for all.

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A.I.M. CENTRAL HUB, NYC.

RUN THE NUMBERS FOR ME, HOWARD.

HOW MANY CASUALTIES?

FIVE A.I.M. SUBSTATIONS DISMANTLED, DR. COVINGTON.

SIXTY-THREE CONFIRMED. FIGURE ANOTHER 15% ON TOP OF THAT.

TECH ACQUIRED IN DOLLAR VALUE?

$3.6 MILLION. ROUGHLY.

HOW MUCH MORE UNTIL WE'RE SATISFIED?

WELL...THERE'S THE TERRIGEN COCOON...AND, YOU KNOW, THEY DID TRY TO KILL YOU, SO...

...

THERE WILL BE NO SURVIVORS. ARE WE CLEAR?

I DON'T WANT A LIVING *LAB RAT* OR *BACTERIAL SAMPLE* WHEN WE'RE THROUGH.

EXCEPT THE TERRIGEN COCOON.

EXCEPT THE TERRIGEN *COCOON*. THE *COCOON* IS MINE.

BLEED OUT EVERYTHING ELSE. STEAL THE TECH, PISS IN THE REFRIGERATOR AND POISON THE POTTED PLANTS...

MAMA WANTS TO SEND A MESSAGE.

WHAT WAS THAT? THERE.

I GOT NOTHING.

I'VE GOT AN ALARM FROM THE S.E. EXIT BUT NOTHING ON VISUAL. POSSIBLE THAT COULD HAVE BLOWN OPEN?

NO WAY. THOSE DOORS HAVE TO WEIGH, LIKE, 40 POUNDS. CALL DOWN.

THIIIS... HAS GOT TO BE A MISTAKE...

AVENGERS TOWER ADVISORY

HIGH-ALERT ADVISORY FROM--WAIT FOR IT-- AVENGERS TOWER. SUBSTATIONS REPORTED--

THE *AVENGERS* ARE PUTTING *US* ON ALERT...? WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT? *HOW* WOULD THEY--

I DUNNO. BUT I'M TELLING YOU--

FIND ME THAT *COCOON! RIGHT NOW!*

WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A BEVY OF AVENGERS IN OUR LAPS AND *BELIEVE ME--*

GAK!

THAT'S NOT *NEARLY* AS FUN AS IT SOUNDS.

AVENGERS TOWER.

URBAN FLIGHT MODEL, SELECTED...

COUNTERMEASURES TO ARMED. AUTOTHROTTLE TO ARMED. JUMP LAUNCH SELECTED.

ARE WE GOOD TO GO BACK THERE, SPIDER-GIRL?

OHMYGODTHISISSOCOOL

YES, SIR!

QUINJET IS LIT.

WHOOSH

BRACE FOR LAUNCH.

CAP, WE'RE HERE.

WHAT'S A.I.M.'S STATUS, SPIDER-WOMAN?

BREACHED. IF I HAD TO GUESS, COVINGTON'S STILL ON THE PREMISES. THIS IS GONNA GET UGLY.

THINK GOOD THOUGHTS, HULK. WE'RE GOING IN.

DRONE MODE SELECTED.

WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

AS DISTASTEFUL AS SOME OF US MIGHT FIND THIS FACT, I NEED TO REMIND YOU ALL THAT A.I.M. HAS ***DIPLOMATIC STATUS*** AND AS SUCH, IS UNDER OUR PROTECTION.

IF THEY WERE FOUND TO HAVE ***KIDNAPPED*** AND ***ENDANGERED*** AN INDIVIDUAL IN A TERRIGEN COCOON, HOWEVER...

WELL. A CASE COULD CERTAINLY BE MADE TO PUT THAT STATUS IN QUESTION.

FIFTY BUCKS SAYS IT'S IN THERE.

IT'S IN THERE.

THEN FIFTY BUCKS SAYS I FIND IT FIRST.

PFFT.

A 12-PACK SAYS YOU DON'T HAVE FIFTY BUCKS, BARTON.

I HAVE FIFTY BUCKS. I HAVE LOTS OF BUCKS.

RAHHHHH!

KNOCK KNOCK!

AHHHH!

WHO'S THERE?

CLAIRE!

WHO CLAIRE?

CLAIRE THE WAY, BOYS, WE'RE COMIN' THROUGH!

WHAT PART OF "WE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE NOW" IS IT THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND?

PUT HIM DOWN, BIG GUY.

OKAY, LADY.

KRSSHH

HEY, TIT FOR TAT--TELL ME WHERE THE COCOON IS, AND I'LL KEEP THE LIZARD FROM--

KEHHHHHHH

OR NOT.

KRK

OR MAYBE SO.

WELL NOW. THANKS TO SHANG-CHI HERE, YOU'RE STILL BREATHING. I FIGURE YOU OWE US.

SO WHERE'S THE COCOON?

WE GOT A LOCATION, CLINT.

IT'S IN ONE OF THE RESEARCH WINGS OFF THE CENTRAL COMMAND.

AW, SERIOUSLY? I ALMOST HAD IT! I WAS *THIS* CLOSE!

WHO GOT IT?

WIDOW.

HOW?

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

...NO.

RAHHHHHHH!

THERE! THE COCOON'S THROUGH THAT DOOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM--CLINT, WE CAN BLAST YOU A PATH IF YOU MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH.

THANKS, CAPTAIN, BUT YOU GO AHEAD AND KEEP THE LIZARDS OFF THE A.I.M. GUYS. I'LL DO THIS TARZAN-STYLE.

THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUB.

LOGAN, I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO OWE ME A 12-PACK.

AHH-AH-AH-AHAHAHAHHHHH!

BAM!

WAIT, WHAT?

HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?

I TOOK THE HIGH ROAD. NOW GET BACK, HAWKEYE!

THE VENTILATION DISBURSED THE GAS ON THE FIRST FLOOR, BUT SHE'S STILL PUTTING IT OUT!

THAT SHE IS.

AVENGERS, WE'VE GOT A MASK SITUA--

AHHHHHH!

GAS! EVERYBODY BACK!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN HERE?

A HUMAN BEING. A HUMAN BEING WHO DESERVES BETTER.

I WAS GOING FOR "BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL."

IT'S JUST LIKE CHRISTMAS, ISN'T IT? DO YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS? HOW ABOUT BIRTHDAYS, DO YOU DO THOSE?

DOESN'T MATTER. IF YOU'VE EVER UNWRAPPED A PRESENT, YOU KNOW...

IT COULD BE SUPER-STRENGTH OR... I DON'T KNOW, TELEPATHY MAYBE...

AND THE ONLY THING BETWEEN *IT* AND *ME*, LITTLE GIRL...

...IS *YOU*.

I'VE NEVER LET ANOTHER WOMAN STAND BETWEEN ME AND WHAT I WANT BEFORE, AND I DON'T THINK TODAY'S THE DAY I MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

OH, *EWWWW.* THERE IS SO MUCH WRONG WITH WHAT YOU JUST SAID I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO *START.*

I DO.

SHUT UP.

THWIP

GAKKK--!

HOW ARE YOU STILL MAKING NOISE?

MMRPH

THWIP

NICE SHOOTIN', TEX.

THANKS, BOSS.

WHOOOOP

SPIDER-GIRL, LOGAN...

CAN SHE BREATHE? PLEASE TELL ME WE'RE NOT STANDING AROUND WATCHING A WOMAN CHOKE TO DEATH. THAT IS NOT HOW AVENGERS DO THINGS.

I LOOKED AT ALL THE STUFF ON HER THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. SENT TO SPIDER-WOMAN. EVEN CALLED THE DOCTOR WE MET AT THE HOSPITAL. I GUESS SHE'S IN MY NETWORK NOW.

PULL THAT SUIT AWAY FROM HER NECK.

WELL, I'LL BE. GILLS.

SHE'S NOT COMFORTABLE AND SHE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE...BUT SHE'S NOT DYING.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER. GOOD WORK, KIDDO.

WE OWE YOU ONE FOR THIS. ANY TIME YOU FIND YOURSELF IN NEED OF AN EXTRA HAND OR TWO IN THE FUTURE, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US.

YOU'RE GONNA FIT RIGHT IN.

BROOKLYN, NY.
THE APARTMENT OF ANYA CORAZON.

Anya

POOP

Please don't tell anyone I know how to use a smartphone.
--S.R.

S.R.?

...STEVE ROGERS?!

New Ringtone Downloading...

OH, NUH-UH...

I'M STANDING ON MY OWN

BUT NOW I'M NOT ALONE

AVENGERS! ASSEMBLE!

ALLLWAYS WE WILL FIGHT AS ONE

TILL THE BATTLE'S WON

WITH EVIL ON THE RUN

WE NEVER COME UNDONE

ASSEMBLE, WE ARE STRONG

FOREVER FIGHT AS ONE

ASSEMBLED WE ARE STRONG

FOREVER FIGHT AS ONE...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!

THE END.

Goodnight Team Happy
Goodnight Team Sad
Goodnight Team Captains
Whose kale drinks taste bad

Goodnight to the Widow
And the red in her ledger
Goodnight to Clint Barton
Our favorite bet-hedger

Goodnight June
And teacher's cocoon

Goodnight Hyperion
Goodnight Shang-Chi
Goodnight to smartphones
Timing coffee (not tea!)

Goodnight Tom Brevoort
And thanks for the raps
Goodnight to the intern
Who writes the recaps

Goodnight Als
Goodnight Jens
Goodnight with thanks
For lending your pens

Goodnight Lauren
Goodnight Warren
Goodnight all colorists,
Domestic and foreign

Goodnight Stefano, Pete, Matteo and Barry
Goodnight AIM operative, dumb-like-mud Larry

Goodnight Kashmir Vennema
(Whose name sounds like enema
Don't think we'll see you
On screen at the cinema)

Goodnight to the Tower
And its weird kitchen sink
Goodnight to the artists
Who provided the ink

Goodnight Raff, Bags, Edwards and Jon
Goodnight Dan Buckley, who keeps the lights on

Goodnight powers
And flamboyant costumes
And goodnight to Clayton,
Who letters our BOOMs

Goodnight Brian Bendis
Who saw us out of the chute
Then moved on to great things
With Rocket and Groot

Goodnight Thor
Goodnight Corps
Goodnight to heroes
Who make our hearts soar

Move close for this one
Sit up and pull near
For I drop to a whisper
To wish good night "Mjölnir"

Goodnight to the bullpen
Goodnight to the flatters
And goodnight to YOU
Who made all this matter

Goodnight grumpy Logan
Goodnight Logan's hair
Goodnight my Avengers
...everywhere.

Until we next Assemble,
with love, gratitude and apologies to
Margaret Wise Brown, I remain,

Yours,
Kelly Sue DeConnick
@kellysue

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